

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR BAROQUE STUDIES
Held on Wednesday 5th October at 12.00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Prof. Frank Bezzina (Chairman)
Prof. Denis De Lucca (Director of Institute)
Mr Charles Micallef (Council Representative) didn't show up
Prof. Antonio Millicone (Scholar of Repute)
Dr Hermann Bonnici (Academic Representative)
Dr Stephen C. Spiteri (Academic Representative)

EXCUSED

Prof. William Zammit (Senate Representative)

IN ATTENDANCE

Gianluca Mercieca Valletta (Administrator)

INTRODUCTION (Item 1 of the Agenda)

1. The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 27/06/2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings of the same meetings.
2. An Acknowledgment of present members was noted by the Chairman

ARISING OUT OF MINUTES (Item 2 of the Agenda)

3. The Director noted that in regards to the hiring of a research assistant, the necessary documentation has been handed to the chairman and there are no updates as of yet.
4. The Director noted that in regards to the courses offered by the IIBS, the Baroque Culture of the Maltese Islands (Gozo) and the Diploma in Baroque architecture courses did not opened in the academic year 2022/3 due to lack of applications.

5. The Director noted that the IIBS has issued an order for new Computer Equipment, to further streamline the institute's publishing process and are slated to be delivered on the 10th of October.
6. The Director noted that the institute was working alongside the Public Broadcasting Services on the television programme and filming is slated to begin in November. Dr Hermann Bonnici noted that episodes from the previous season of the television programme are still being televised on TVM2.
7. The Director noted that in regards to the institute's PhD Students, Cynthia DeGiorgio is to submit the dissertation titled 'Symbolism in the Baroque Age: the meaning of Symbols at the Conventual Church of the Knights of Malta' in December.

MATTERS FOR REPORT (Item 3 of the Agenda)

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS (Item 4 of the Agenda)

8. The Director noted that in regards to the institute's relations with foreign bodies, the IIBS has established ties with the Syracuse University's School of Architecture and 'Il Centro Internazionale di Studi sul Barocco'. The chairman suggested working towards the creation of a bilateral course between the IIBS and Syracuse University.
9. The Chairman noted that in regards to the future of IIBS, there are discussions that the IIBS becomes a unit within the Faculty of Built Environment. The Director noted that in a discussion Prof. Alex Torpiano he elaborated that he disagrees that the IIBS is classified as a Unit instead of an Institute. The Director further suggested that the IIBS is at minimum classified as a Department rather than a Unit under the conditions that the IIBS team is to remain as a team.
10. It was further noted by the Chairman that proposed document is not to be presented before the Faculty of Built Environment faculty board without the requested amendments.

TEACHING/RESEARCH ACTIVITIES (Item 5 of the Agenda)

11. The Director noted that Dr. Stephen Spiteri has been working on the following publications:

- A publication titled “‘Water and Hospitaller Fortifications’ in 8000 years of Water: A Maltese story of Sustainability” is being edited by S.Zerafa (Water Services Corporation, 2022) and is slated to be launched soon.
- A publication titled ‘The Floriana Lines’ has been submitted for new publication under preparation intended to commemorate Floriana's tricentenary (ed. Dr J. Abela).
- A detailed and exhaustive study of the many volumes of ‘Suppliche’ (petitions) submitted to the Congregation of War and Fortification in the years 1716-1798 is currently a work in progress.

12. The Director noted that the Masters in Baroque Studies student Denise Muscat is scheduled to present her dissertation before the dissertation revision board on Monday the 10th of October

STUDENT MATTERS (Item 6 of the Agenda)

OTHER MATTERS (Item 7 of the Agenda)

13. It was noted that the next Institute Board Meeting shall be held on Wednesday 7th October at 2pm.

Office of the International Institute for Baroque Studies

University of Malta